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ACTION H-22

INFO OCT-71 ARA-14 ISO-22 HA-65 SSO-22 /722 6
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTIVIDEO

TO SACSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0220

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTIVIDEO 5342

P.O. 11852: N/A

TAGS: SRUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: REPLY TO SENATOR WEITZENBAUM REGARDING
DISAPPEARANCE OF JORGE, MARIA,
AND MARIANA ZAFFARONI

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR
PEZZULLO TO SENATOR HOWARD M. WEITZENBAUM:
QUOTE DEAR SENATOR WEITZENBAUM:

THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF MAY 10, 1977
TO AMBASSADOR SIRACHUSA CONCERNING MS. MISSY HILIMON'S
INTEREST IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ZAFFARONI FAMILY.
I REGRET THE LONG DELAY IN REPLYING TO YOU BUT I
ARRIVED HERE AS AMBASSADOR IN AUGUST, AND THE LACK OF
ANY RESPONSE TO YOUR MAY 10 LETTER AND SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-
UP WAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR
LATEST FOLLOW-UP.

PURSUANT TO YOUR INQUIRY THE EMBASSY RECENTLY INTER-
VIEWED RELATIVES OF THE ZAFFARONIS IN MONTIVIDEO WHO
INFORMED US THAT JORGE AND MARIA
ZAFFARONI (URUGUAYAN

CITIZENS) AND THEIR 10-MONTH OLD DAUGHTER MARIANA (AN
ARGENTINIAN) DISAPPEARED SEPTEMBER 27, 1976 IN BUENOS
AIRES, ARGENTINA WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME

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BY ARMED MEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. ACCORDING TO THE
RELATIVES, THEIR REPEATED AND WIDESPREAD ATTEMPTS TO
OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE FAMILY
HAVE BEEN TO NO AVAIL.

FOLLOWING OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE ZAFFARONI
RELATIVES THE EMBASSY SOUGHT INFORMATION ON THE FAMILY
FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY. THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
HAS RESPONDED THAT THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE
MISSING ZAFFARONI FAMILY MEMBERS ALTHOUGH ONE OF THEM,
JORGE ZAFFARONI, HAS BEEN SOUGHT FOR QUESTIONING BY THE
URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES SINCE SEPTEMBER 21, 1974.

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE RECEIVE ON THE WELFARE
AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE ZAFFARONI FAMILY WILL BE FORWARDED
TO YOU. SINCERELY YOURS, LAWRENCE A. PEZZULLO, AMBASSADOR
UNQUOTE.

2. GIVEN LONG DELAY AND LACK OF PREVIOUS RESPONSE WOULD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>J. Man</i>	DATE <i>4/3/80</i>
RCS ☐ OF YES ☐ EXT. DATE	REASON(S)
TS AUTH.	EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA OR FCI EVALUATIONS	

